

SENATOR WESELY: ...is a philosophy that I believe in very strongly and feel that this body ought to continue. And I know there is a lot of sentiment from last year, there is a lot of feeling that we don't want to go through what we've gone through last year and the year before and, however you feel about that issue, I'm trying to bring you back down to the fundamental question of what kind of image do you want this Legislature to have. I understand some will say we don't want an image of filibusters all the time. And I understand that. The other image is that we're open in our debate, open to our consideration of ideas; it may not be pleasant, may not be what we like, but at least we consider them. And that is what democracy is all about, democracy is not an easy process, it's not a clear-cut, streamlined system, it's one in which we have to consider, openly, the different issues before us. And sometimes that takes some filibusters to make some points, and in my estimation that is a price worth paying to have the sort of system that we have in our country and in our state.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. Clerk, you have some new bills to read?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do. Thank you. I'll be very quick. (Read LBs 212-225 by title for the first time. See pages 165-67 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have, Mr. President. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Crosby, followed by Senator Moore.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President. This particular rule has...I remember two years ago when we argued about it and I voted against it. I have mixed feelings about cloture. And I like some of the things that Senator Wesely said about the image of the Legislature, that it makes us look like we want not to discuss certain issues. When you...If you look back to our record, the last two years, when I've been here, there have been filibusters on more than just the life issues, and some of them didn't go as long as those. But I remember the tort reform bill, and also smokeless tobacco. We had long discussions and a lot of amendments on those bills. Believe it or not, I've discussed this particular rule with constituents because a lot of people are interested in cloture and, again, not just on the life issues. I do talk to constituents about other issues. And I've discussed this with several constituents during the last two weeks, because when I read it in the paper that Senator